

PRG Meeting Summary – July 2, 2008

The LWG met with EPA on July 2 to discuss PRGs. Several agreements in principle were reached and a path forward for final agreements to the PRG approach were discussed. A summary of meeting agreements and path forward are presented below.

Meeting Agreements in Principle:

1. Background – It was agreed that the background sediment values currently being developed using methods agreed to in EPA/LWG background meetings would be placed on the PRG tables to provide context to the PRGs.
 - a. It was recognized that there was one last step in the background development review process currently ongoing and that EPA needs to approve that final submittal before background values can be developed. LWG plans to submit this last piece of information, illustrating upstream sediment data reduction and outlier evaluation for several example chemicals, in a few days [Note: Background Outlier Evaluation Memo was submitted to EPA on July 3, 2008].
2. PRGs Development for TEQ Chemicals -
 - a. It was agreed that LWG would conduct an evaluation to identify the congener or congeners most contributing to PCB and/or dioxin exposure in the river. The model would then be run for the specific congener(s) only and used to estimate any overall TEQ PRG based on those results.
 - b. It was also agreed that LWG would provide the results of the selection of the congener(s) to EPA before proceeding with the PRG calculation step.
 - c. It was also agreed that if the approach did not work (i.e., a sufficiently small subset of congeners could not be identified) then the LWG would propose an alternative method at that time. The alternative method is expected to be to use a weighted average Kow of all the congeners and run one representative congener in the model using this average Kow value.
3. Human Health PRG Increments
 - a. The LWG proposed that representative PRGs will be developed for each target risk level (i.e., 10^{-4} , 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , and HQ of 1) for the lowest and highest intake assumptions and, in the case of fish ingestion, for a single species diet for the species with the lowest and highest BSAFs or FWM relationship. The idea of developing a “PRG curve” that would allow quick calculation of any theoretically possible PRG was also discussed, and EPA was amenable to this idea.
 - b. EPA indicated tentative agreement with the above concept subject to further consideration.

Other Discussions

ARARs and Surface Water PRGs – Although not critical to early AOPC development, the timing of developing surface water PRGs (and as related to

ARARs) was discussed. It was agreed that this was a high priority item that should be scheduled for discussion soon (i.e., August).

AOPC Development – This was generally discussed. It was agreed that this is the top priority item to be discussed next in order to continue the early FS development.

Chemical List – LWGs proposed chemical list was discussed. EPA indicated they needed to have more time to review this.

Action Items

LWG Action Item

1. LWG will prepare an overall summary of the agreements in principal and handouts from the recent PRG meetings and submit this to EPA.

EPA Action Item

1. EPA will review the LWG summary of agreements and handouts and provide comments within two weeks of submittal. The goal is for EPA to provide general approval with specific items/issues that require special attention during the LWG's development of draft PRGs.